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26 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI
D/DCI/IC
DDS&T
DDO
DDA
General Counsel
Legislative Counsel
Inspector General
Comptroller

Mr. Thuermer

1. The attached cover memo will explain the basic attachment. now tells me the DCI may be called upon to deliver this by the end of next week. We must therefore collapse the original schedule and ask the Deputies to review this draft while the production offices are checking it.

2. Considering the pressures on us all, A/DDI suggests we dispense with a meeting. Please let me have any comments you may have no later than C.O.B. Monday.

RICHARD LEHMAN
Director
Strategic Research

Attachment:
As Stated

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25 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : Response to HSC

1. As many of you know, I have been asked to draft a statement the DCI might make in response to charges made before and by the HSC in regard to intelligence performance. A first draft is attached.

2. The statement tries to do several things. First, to respond to the HSC in a firm but measured way, trying indirectly to suggest that the Committee is dealing with sophisticated questions it does not fully understand. Second, to reach beyond the HSC to the public with a story that has never been properly told. Third, to say to our own people that we are not rolling over with our paws in the air anytime some charge is made against us.

3. The statement is strong, perhaps a bit demagogic, but this is no time to be squeamish. We have a record we are proud of, and we should say so. It is, however, essential that every assertion be supportable, and I beseech your help. Some of the text is drawn from material your offices have prepared, but some from my memory; you should have more faith in the former than the latter.

4. Security and sensitivity must also be checked, but with as much flexibility as possible. To do its job, the statement must be unclassified. It bends the rules considerably and some deletions may be essential. If so, please suggest alternative language or topic. And let us not worry right now about putting a few noses out of joint.

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5. This is a first draft. It obviously still needs a lot of work. I did not use all the material provided, and there are undoubtedly additional subjects to be touched on and points to be made. (The text should not end up much longer, however.) Please give me any comments or criticisms, as well as a sign-off on accuracy and security, by COB Monday. The next step will be a draft for the Deputies, etc.



RICHARD LEHMAN
Director
Strategic Research

25X

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